

MARKING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF LEBANON, CT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of Lebanon, Connecticut. Over the past three centuries, Lebanon has developed a rich history that is a source of pride for every resident and citizens across eastern Connecticut. As residents celebrate their past this year, they look forward to the many exciting opportunities for their community in the years ahead.

Lebanon was officially incorporated in October 1700. Covering more than 55 square miles, the community hosts some of the State's most productive dairy and poultry farms and spectacular open spaces. Lebanon is well-known throughout Connecticut for its rich and varied history.

The history of Lebanon is inexorably tied to the Revolutionary War. Arguably, Lebanon was at the center of Connecticut's efforts to support our quest for independence and freedom. The State's Revolutionary War Governor—Jonathan Trumbull—was a resident of Lebanon. He converted a building which had served as a general store into the State's "War Office." From this office, which still sits on the Lebanon Town Green, Governor Trumbull and the Council of Safety met frequently to direct the State's war effort. According to "Connecticut: A Fully Illustrated History of the State From the Seventeenth Century to the Present" by Albert Van Dusen, the Council, which consisted of many of the leading men of the day, including Samuel Huntington, William Williams and Deputy Governor Griswold, "put in untold hours of work at about 1,200 meetings, mostly held at the 'War Office.'" These men met at great risk to their personal safety throughout the War.

Governor Trumbull's extraordinary leadership and the resourcefulness and productivity of the people of my state earned Connecticut the distinction as the "Provisions State" during the War. The State provided everything from food and clothing to guns and ammunition for the Continental Army. During one of the darkest periods of the War, General Washington appealed to Governor Trumbull for supplies for the soldiers suffering through the winter at Valley Forge when colonies in the central part of the country failed to provide promised rations. According to Van Dusen, Governor Trumbull "immediately ordered Commissaries Henry Chamberlain and Peter Colt to take \$200,000, earlier allocated to cattle purchases, and scour the countryside for live beef. The cattle were driven in herds by Champion and his son to Valley Forge. The first herd was devoured within 5 days by the ravenous soldiers."

In addition to the many contributions of Governor Trumbull, the men of Lebanon played a crucial role in the War effort. More than 670 men from Lebanon served in the Continental Army beginning with the Battle of Bunker Hill through to victory at Yorktown. It is estimated that this figure represented about half of the total adult population of the community. Lebanon also played host to French forces under

the command of Duke de Lauzun between November 1780 and June 1781.

Today, we stand more than two centuries removed from the end of the Revolution. However, the important role of Lebanon in one of the most defining moments in our nation's history remains clear on the landscape and in the spirit of the community. The historic buildings remain on the Town Green and the rich history is maintained through the work of the Lebanon Historical Society and the new Lebanon History Museum and Visitors Center. It remains alive in the hearts of hundreds of people who gathered last month to reenact a Revolutionary War encampment.

Over the past 300 years, Lebanon has grown, changed and prospered. Although agriculture remains important, the Town's economy has changed significantly with tourism becoming increasingly important. Lebanon retains much of its rural character and its rich history, incredible mile-long Town Green and natural resources make it an integral part of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with the residents of Lebanon in celebrating the community's 300th birthday. We are united in the knowledge that the next 100 years will be as productive and proud as the past three centuries.

IN MEMORY OF THEODORE M. BERRY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Theodore M. Berry, a local hero who passed away on October 15, 2000. Over the past century, Ted had a profound impact on the Cincinnati area, and our nation, as a civic leader and civil rights advocate.

Ted was born in Maysville, KY, on November 8, 1905. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Cincinnati, graduating as the valedictorian from Cincinnati's Woodward High School in June, 1924. He went on to the University of Cincinnati Law School, where he paid his way by working at local steel mills. He graduated in 1931 and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1932.

In the 1930's and 1940's, Ted was a prominent leader at the NAACP Cincinnati branch, where twice he was elected president. In 1939, he was appointed Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor. From 1947 to 1961, he served on the Ohio Committee for Civil Rights Legislation, focusing his attention on equal employment and fair housing issues. During this period, he also began a career as a Cincinnati City Council member.

Over the course of his life, Ted worked tirelessly to fight poverty, and, in 1964, he created Cincinnati's first Community Action Commission, which enabled Cincinnati to participate with President Lyndon Johnson's new Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). A year later, President Johnson appointed Ted as head of OEO's Community Action Programs. Under Ted's leadership, innovative and effective programs such as Head Start were established. When he returned to Cincinnati, he became the city's first African-American mayor,

serving from 1972 to 1975. Since then, he has reappeared in the public spotlight helping to advance the causes of numerous political and civic organizations.

Ted was honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as a Great Living Cincinnati in 1984. In 1999, Cincinnati City Council approved funds to construct the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park along Cincinnati's riverfront. Last February, Applause! magazine honored Ted as the "Person of the Century" at the 10th annual Imagemaker Awards at the Arnoff Center for the Arts. In March, the Hamilton County Commissioners approved funds to construct the future Theodore M. Berry Way in Cincinnati.

Ted is survived by his wife, Johnnie Mae, and their three children: Theodore Berry, Jr., Faith Berry, and Gail Berry West. He was a dedicated public servant and strong advocate for civil rights, and, although he will be dearly missed, his accomplishments, leadership, and compassion will not be forgotten.

PAY TELEPHONES

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a few minutes today discussing a segment of the communications system that we often take for granted—pay telephones. We have all had experiences using pay telephones when we are away from home. Even in these days of wireless telephones, pay telephones are essential for many Americans. They are a great convenience when we are traveling, when we are away from the office, and, in many cases, when we have an emergency.

There are about 2 million pay telephones in the country today, about 1.5 million of which are owned and operated by the same companies that operate local telephone exchanges. Another 500,000 phones are owned and operated by independent pay telephone companies. For thousands of people in rural and low-income areas, pay telephones are a source of basic telephone service. About 6% of all households in the country do not have a telephone. In poor urban areas, 25% or more of households do not have a telephone, and up to 20% of rural households do not have telephones in some areas. For families in these households, pay telephones often provide basic telephone service.

Our national policy regarding pay telephones has evolved significantly over the last twenty years. Prior to 1984, pay telephones were a regulated monopoly owned exclusively by the local telephone exchanges. In 1984, the Federal Communications Commission ordered local exchanges to provide service with independent payphone companies that wanted to install their own payphones. This development introduced competition for the first time in the payphone industry. However, full competition did not develop because charges to payphone companies were still set high enough to subsidize other services.

In 1996, another development occurred. With the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress stated that it wanted to further competition in the payphone industry so that there would be widespread deployment of